

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A step apparatus, including:

D1 a mounting portion adapted to be secured to a vehicle by a hitch assembly adapted to be mounted to the rear thereof, wherein the hitch assembly comprises a hitch portion adapted to be attached to a towable vehicle; and

a step portion adapted to be hinged to the mounting portion, wherein ~~whereby~~ the step portion ~~may be moved from~~ is adapted to be moveable between a first in-use position and a second stowed position whereby the mounting portion is adapted to be secured to a vehicle, the step portion is disposed above a vehicle-hitch portion and usable with or without the vehicle hitch being in use, and in the to a second stowed position, the step portion is adapted to be adjacent to rear of a vehicle and forward, with respect to the direction of travel of a vehicle, of the hitch.

29. (Original) Step apparatus including:

D2 a mounting portion adapted to be secured to a vehicle by the gooseneck for a ball hitch and wherein said mounting portion is secured to the gooseneck by the hitching ball; and
a step portion supported on said mounting portion.

30. (Original) Step apparatus according to claim 29, wherein said step portion is located in use above the towing hitch.

D3 32. (Original) Step apparatus according to claim 30, wherein said step portion is mounted to the mounting portion in a manner permitting the step to be moved from an in-use position to a stored position.

36. (Currently Amended) The step apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said step is adapted to be locked in a first position, whereby ~~said hitch is unable to be unhitched therefrom~~ the towable vehicle adapted to be attached to the hitch portion is unable to be detached therefrom.

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37. (Currently Amended) The step apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said step is adapted to be locked in said first position, whereby said hitch is unable to be hitched thereto the towable vehicle adapted to be attached to the hitch portions aid hitch is unable to be detached thereto.

Please add claims 39 and 40 as follows.

39. (New) The step apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a pivot pin about which the step portion is adapted to be hinged to the mounting portion.

D5
40. (New) The step apparatus of claim 39, further comprising two opposed lugs, wherein the pivot pin is adapted to be mounted to the lugs, wherein each lug has an upper bearing surface which is adapted to support the underside of the step portion when the step portion is in the first position.